

St Margaret's Concerned Residents Group

To: Constituency Commission

Sub 16/252

9th January 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

Please find attached submission to the Constituency Commission in relation to the formation of constituencies for the election of members to Dáil Éireann and to the European Parliament, in respect of the St. Margaret's Concerned Residents Group (SMCRG).

Please confirm receipt of our submission by email to:

stmgts.concernedresidents@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you in respect to our submission.

Yours sincerely



**Helena Merriman
Chairperson**

**Submission by St Margarets Concerned Residents
Group (SMCRG) – Dublin Fingal**

**In relation to the formation of constituencies for the
election of members to Dáil Éireann and to the European
Parliament**

Date: 9th January 2017

Introduction:

- St. Margaret's Concerned Residents Group (SMCRG) represent 75 individuals (24 members, including land owners, business owners, and home owners).
- SMCRG represents residents from Millhead, Kilreesk Lane and Dunbro – St. Margaret's, North County Dublin.
- SMCRG members will be directly affected by the proposed new runway and ancillary works at Dublin Airport.
- St. Margaret's is primarily agricultural area in nature and most residents are from farming backgrounds with strong ties to the land, and the communities of Swords, Donabate, Portmarnock and Rush.
- Many residents are living in St. Margaret's for generations.

Background:

- In 2007 daa received planning permission for the construction of a new northern runway;
- St. Margaret's Concerned Residents Group (SMCRG) objected, however planning was granted with 31 conditions attached (An Bord Pleanála);
- The group have been already subjected to considerable upheaval and are currently relying on local political representation to protect their homes, heritage, livelihoods and futures in St. Margaret's.
- The SMCRG lobbied against the new runway in 2007, as part of an oral hearing process, the constituencies were at that time moved to Dublin West. In our opinion this had a grave negative effect on our position, in terms of public representation and left our rural community disenfranchised, and isolated.
- Runway proposed completion date of 2019, with operation due in 2020.

SMCRG Concerns with regard to shifting electoral boundaries;

- The shifting of boundaries to move St. Margaret's, Kilsallaghan, and Rolestown constituents to Dublin West, with large urban towns such as Blanchardstown and Castleknock, (with little in common in terms of local issues) dilutes our position, and rights as citizens, who are actively involved in a lobbying process to protect our homes in relation to runway north;
- We are extremely concerned and cognisant of the fact that any decisions made relating to the area, i.e. Dublin Airport Master Plan, or Fingal Development Plans, will directly affect our way of life, and we will be ignored completely for strategic infrastructural development - leaving our members without a voice, and political leverage which we are relying on to ensure that a fair and democratic process is followed.

Requests from the St. Margaret's Concerned Residents Group (SMCRG)

- SMCRG wish to remain in the electoral constituency as it currently stands – united within the constituency of Dublin-Fingal.
- SMCRG issues are local issues – relating to our neighbours in Swords, Portmarnock, Malahide, Kilsallaghan, and Rolestown. We consider these areas of part of our wider community, identity and we share considerable commonalities.
- We belong with the aforementioned areas – not in West Dublin!

